United Nations E/CN.18/2018/3

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
22 February 2018

Original: English

United Nations Forum on Forests
Thirteenth session
7–11 May 2018
Items 3 (c) and 8 of the provisional agenda*

Implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030: United Nations system-wide contributions to the implementation of the global forest goals and targets

Information on intersessional activities

Contribution of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its members, regional and subregional organizations and processes, major groups and other stakeholders to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present note provides an overview of the contribution of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its members, regional and subregional organizations and processes, major groups and other stakeholders to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. In particular, it serves to highlight their intersessional activities undertaken since the twelfth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

* E/CN.18/2018/1.

18-02184 (E) 010318

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I. Introduction

1. In accordance with the quadrennial programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2017–2020 (see Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/4, annex II), the Forum will consider at its thirteenth session the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 as a priority action. This includes consideration of: (a) a policy dialogue on the thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resource needs for the period 2017–2018, taking into account the review cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development during the biennium and the theme of the International Day of Forests; (b) the voluntary announcement of voluntary national contributions; (c) United Nations system-wide contributions to the implementation of the global forest goals and targets; and (d) the development of the communication and outreach strategy for the strategic plan.

2. The present note has been prepared to serve as the basis for discussion under items 3 (c) and 8 of the provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of the Forum.

II. Background

3. At its special session held on 20 January 2017, the Forum recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft resolution on the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. The plan was approved by the Council in resolution 2017/4 and subsequently adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 71/285.

4. The strategic plan serves as a reference for the forest-related work of the United Nations system to achieve its global forest goals and targets. In accordance with paragraph 2 of the plan, its use should be promoted within the United Nations system, including through inter-agency coordination mechanisms and, where appropriate, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

5. Member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and in particular the secretariats of the Rio conventions,[1] have an important role to play in the implementation of the strategic plan and are thus encouraged in the plan to integrate the relevant global forest goals and targets into their forest-related plans and programmes, where appropriate and consistent with their mandates.

6. Other United Nations bodies, organizations and specialized agencies, as well as other intergovernmental partners and stakeholders at the international level that address issues relevant to forests, are also invited, within the scope of their mandates, to use the strategic plan as a reference, with a view to building synergies between the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan and their respective policies and programmes, including their contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

7. Regional and subregional bodies and processes, including those within the United Nations system, notably the United Nations regional economic commissions and the regional forestry commissions of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as well as the criteria and indicator processes, are further encouraged to build and strengthen synergies between the strategic plan and their

[1] The Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

policies and programmes, including in the context of their contributions to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

8. In the light of the important contributions of all relevant stakeholders to the effective implementation of sustainable forest management, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, such as private philanthropic organizations, educational and academic entities, volunteer groups and others, are encouraged in paragraph 51 of the strategic plan to autonomously establish and maintain effective coordination mechanisms at all levels for interaction and participation in the Forum and other forest-related United Nations bodies.

III. Contribution to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030: activities since the twelfth session of the Forum

A. Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations

9. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests was established in April 2001 in response to an invitation from the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2000/35, with the objectives of supporting the Forum and its members and enhancing cooperation and coordination on forest issues.

10. The Council, in its resolution 2015/33, provided further guidance to the Partnership by specifying the Partnership's core functions, reaffirming the principles of its functioning and encouraging it to consider measures to enhance its support for the Forum and members of the Forum.

11. In response to the guidance provided by the Council in its resolution 2015/33, the Partnership considered ways to enhance its working modalities; accordingly, it formulated a new policy document, which was presented at the twelfth session of the Forum.

12. In addition to its new policy document, the Partnership moved forward with the development of its workplan, in accordance with paragraph 22 (e) of Council resolution 2015/33. It completed the drafting of the workplan for the period 2017–2020 and is scheduled to present it at the thirteenth session of the Forum.

13. The workplan is to be updated on a periodic basis and aligned with the strategic plan and the quadrennial programme of work, taking into account the relevant workplans of members.

14. Pursuant to Council resolution 2015/33, the workplan covers recurrent activities of the Partnership; joint initiatives of the Partnership; and activities to strengthen the Partnership.

15. In particular, the workplan covers priorities for collective actions by all members or subsets of members; and current joint initiatives of the Partnership, including their objectives, their relevance to the global forest goals, forest-related Sustainable Development Goals and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the lead agencies and other partners involved, the time frame for implementation, and the external partners involved, as well as the resource implications of the planned activities.

16. Further information on key actions taken by the Partnership since the twelfth session of the Forum is provided below.

Wangari Maathai Award 2017

17. The Wangari Maathai Award was launched by the Partnership in 2012 to recognize outstanding contributions to the preservation, restoration and sustainable management of forests and to raise awareness of the key role that forests play in supporting local communities, rural livelihoods, women and the environment. The Award serves to honour the memory of Kenyan environmentalist and the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, Wangari Maathai, in particular her contributions in relation to forest issues worldwide.

18. Following the success of the Wangari Maathai Award ceremonies held in 2012, 2014 and 2015, the Partnership presented the 2017 Award to Brazilian forest activist Maria Margarida Ribeiro da Silva in recognition of her efforts to promote community management of her country's forest resources. The ceremony was held at the Global Landscapes Forum in Bonn, Germany, on 20 December 2017.

19. Several members of the Partnership[2] provided voluntary contributions to the Wangari Maathai Award, including for both the $20,000 grant and the travel and other logistical arrangements for the recipient.

International conference on the theme "Working across sectors to halt deforestation and increase forest area: from aspiration to action"

20. At its twelfth session, the Forum welcomed the initiative of the Partnership to organize an international conference on halting deforestation and increasing forest area (see E/2017/42, resolution 12/1). Accordingly, an international conference on the theme "Working across sectors to halt deforestation and increase forest area: from aspiration to action" was held in Rome from 20 to 22 February 2018.

21. The participants in the conference focused on: (a) approaches to managing landscapes in an integrated way under a changing climate; (b) sustainable commodities and value chains; (c) forest-smart policies and governance; (d) innovative instruments to upscale progress: financing, technologies and research.

22. In the plenary and at 16 parallel sessions held during the conference, participants engaged in an interactive dialogue and discussed opportunities and priorities with regard to halting deforestation and increasing forest area, in line with target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and target 1.1 of the global forest goals, by building on national and international best practices. A summary by the Co-Chairs of the conference, containing key messages and action points, is to be submitted to the Forum at its thirteenth session as an input for the deliberations on the Forum's contribution to the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development.

23. Representatives of Governments and international, regional and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as the private forestry, agriculture and livestock sectors, participated in the conference.

24. The conference was co-sponsored by members of the Partnership, with generous contributions from the Governments of Austria, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands, as well as from the European Union.

[2] The International Union of Forest Research Organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the secretariat of the International Tropical Timber Organization, the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the United Nations Environment Programme.

Initiative on fostering partnerships to build coherence and support for forest landscape and ecosystem restoration

25. In April 2017, the Partnership approved an initiative on fostering partnerships to build coherence and support for forest landscape and ecosystem restoration, with a view to promoting restoration efforts at the global, regional and national levels. The main objectives of the initiative are to: (a) identify, prioritize and increase collaboration on restoration through an improved knowledge base; (b) mainstream forest landscape restoration into national, regional and international policy frameworks and facilitate creation of in-country enabling environments for forest landscape restoration; and (c) increase the effectiveness and efficiency of resource mobilization for forest landscape restoration.

26. Under the leadership and coordination of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Partnership developed a project proposal for submission to the Global Environment Facility aimed at securing support for activities under the initiative as a medium-sized project of the Facility. Following the approval of the project identification form by the secretariat of the Facility in August 2017, with provisional support of $625,000 from the Facility and provisional co-financing of $722,000, the Partnership is preparing the final project document. The project will have a duration of 24 months and a start date of early 2018.

Streamlining global forest-related reporting

27. In response to resolution 12/1 of the Forum, member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests continued its work to develop a set of global forest indicators. Major work was accomplished through the Global Forest Resources Assessment of FAO and a proposal for a global core set of forest-related indicators was developed through two meetings of the Partnership's task force established for that purpose, an online consultation process and expert consultation on the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020.

28. The global core set of forest-related indicators is intended to: (a) measure progress towards sustainable forest management, including target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals; (b) measure progress in implementing the United Nations forest instrument and the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and the global forest goals and targets set out in it; and (c) measure progress towards targets of the Sustainable Development Goals other than target 15.2 and other internationally agreed goals on forests in other instruments, in particular the forest-related commitments under the Rio conventions.

29. The draft global core set of forest-related indicators is expected to be presented to the Forum for consideration at its thirteenth session. Information on the draft global core set of forest-related indicators is provided in the note by the Secretariat on monitoring, assessment and reporting on progress towards implementing the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions (E/CN.18/2018/4).

Global Forest Information Service

30. The Global Forest Information Service[3] was launched in 2002 to enhance access to all forest-related information for all stakeholders including policymakers, forest managers, NGOs, community groups and the public at large. Led and coordinated by

[3] Further information is available at https://www.gfis.net.

the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, the Service currently operates in partnership with over 395 information providers worldwide that share content through the Service's website and has a searchable archive of over 340,000 forest-related information products. Information on around 600 news items, publications and events on average is added to the website every week.

31. The Service acts as a mechanism to support the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, in particular by contributing to the mobilization of the best available scientific and traditional forest-related knowledge, as well as to the enhancement of cooperation and synergies on forest-related communications and outreach to increase the impact of messaging from the United Nations system, the Partnership and its member organizations and other partners. The Service effectively contributes to achieving global forest goal 4 and the related target 4.5 and supports the implementation of paragraphs 61 and 71 of the strategic plan.

32. The intersessional activities of the Service include the continuous development and upgrading of educational content in collaboration with the Joint Task Force on Forest Education of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations and the International Forestry Students' Association. As a result, a global database and university directory of forest-related academic programmes has been launched. The upgrades include the expansion of education information. In addition, improvements to the Service's filtering and search functions and changes to its user interface are in progress. In November 2017, the Partnership initiated a strategic review of the Service to explore ways to further develop it, taking into account the Partnership's new policy document and its workplan for 2017–2020.

Global Forest Expert Panels initiative

33. Under the Partnership's Global Forest Expert Panels initiative,[4] which is coordinated by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, international expert panels on emerging forest-related issues and topics of high concern are periodically assembled. The panels synthesize the scientific information available on specific topics in an interdisciplinary, comprehensive and transparent manner and produce reports to support more informed global decision-making on forest-related issues. Their activities directly support the effective attainment of the global forest goals and targets, as called for in paragraph 61 of the strategic plan, and the outcomes of their work have contributed and will continue to contribute directly to the implementation of global forest goal 4, including target 4.5, and global forest goal 6, including target 6.2. Furthermore, the scientific assessment reports produced by the Global Forest Expert Panels improve the understanding of synergies and trade-offs between the different global forest goals and targets and the ways in which the strategic plan and different forest-related policies and programmes can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. For example, the global assessment report of the Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security, *Forests, Trees and Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition* (2015),[5] provided scientific input for the global debate on forests and Sustainable Development Goal 2 on food security, and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations was invited to inform the members of the Forum of the results of the assessment during the panel discussion

[4] Further information is available at http://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/.

[5] Available at https://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/forests-and-food-security-panel/report/.

on the contributions of forests to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2 held at the twelfth session of the Forum in May 2017.

34. Since the launch of the Global Forest Expert Panels initiative in 2007, the panels have successfully completed five global assessments. Since January 2017, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations has been carrying out a global scientific assessment of interactions between forests and water. The ultimate goal of the Expert Panel on Forests and Water[6] is to inform international policy processes and to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by highlighting the links between Sustainable Development Goals 6 and 15 and the cross-sectoral contributions of forests to the different Sustainable Development Goals. During the intersessional period, the Global Forest Expert Panels initiative has organized three meetings of the Expert Panel on Forests and Water. The peer review, editing and finalization of the assessment report will take place from February to April 2018, followed by the layout process in May and printing in June. The report will serve as a contribution to the thirteenth session of the Forum and the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development, at which it will officially be launched, along with an accompanying policy brief.

Communicators Group

35. The Communicators Group of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests considered and recommended themes for the International Day of Forests celebrations in 2017 and 2018 and coordinated the related activities. The Group also provided support for the organization of activities relating to the Wangari Maathai Award and the development of the communication and outreach strategy for the strategic plan.

36. The theme of the International Day of Forests in 2017, "Forests and energy", was selected to increase awareness of the interconnections between forests and energy and strengthen engagement between forest and energy practitioners and policymakers. The theme was relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goals 15 and 7.

37. The secretariat of the Forum held a special event at United Nations Headquarters to celebrate the International Day of Forests in 2017. The event featured remarks by senior United Nations and government officials and a technical panel discussion, as well as a general discussion by members of the Forum and United Nations entities. The event highlighted the fact that forests and energy are essential for the well-being of local communities and for green infrastructure for economic development.

38. FAO held an event with the participation of the President of Fiji, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, a Senior Vice-President of the Metsä Group, the Director General of FAO and representatives of member States and the Rome-based agencies. As in previous years, a video was prepared, which was aired by several global television networks, and communication products were provided to support country celebrations.

39. The theme of the International Day of Forests in 2018, "Forests for sustainable cities", was selected to increase awareness of the interconnections between forests and cities and strengthen engagement between forest and urban practitioners and policymakers. The theme is relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goals 15 and 11.

[6] Further information is available at https://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/forests-and-water-panel/.

40. For the 2018 celebrations, the plans of FAO include the traditional provision of communication support to member States, the preparation of a video and a global event to launch a publication on urban forests, with the participation of international organizations and mayors representing different cities, to highlight the role of forests in a rapidly urbanizing world.

B. Regional and subregional organizations and processes

41. In the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, it is stated that regional bodies provide a crucial bridge between international policies and national actions and are important partners in efforts to implement the strategic plan and achieve its global forest goals and targets (para. 45); that the Forum works with regional and subregional bodies and processes to identify ways to contribute to the global forest goals and targets, including by encouraging them to exchange information, enhance cooperation, raise awareness, strengthen stakeholder engagement and build capacity to scale up best practices within and across regions (para. 46); and that regional and subregional bodies and processes are encouraged to build and strengthen synergies between the strategic plan and their policies and programmes, including in the context of their contributions to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (para. 47).

42. Furthermore, in accordance with the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum for the period 2017–2020, the Forum's odd-year sessions focus on discussions on implementation and technical advice, including exchange of experiences among members of the Forum, member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional and subregional organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, and the science-policy interface.

43. In its resolution 12/1, the Forum invited members of the Forum, member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, United Nations system partners, regional and subregional organizations and processes, major groups and other stakeholders to provide inputs to the Forum secretariat on the contribution of forests to the issues under consideration by the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2018 (see E/2017/42, resolution 12/1, para. 24).[7]

44. The United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and the quadrennial programme of work provide a new framework for the Forum's activities. Given the enhanced role that regional and subregional entities will play in the international arrangement on forests, their future contributions to the arrangement, including the written format of those contributions, are of the utmost importance. In that context, an expert meeting on regional and subregional input to the Forum was held at the United Nations Office at Nairobi on 20 and 21 November 2017. Representatives of nine regional and subregional entities attended the meeting.[8] The experts discussed: (a) the contributions of regional and subregional organizations and processes to the implementation of the strategic plan, including the format and cycle for such contributions; (b) input to the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development; and (c) the promotion of collaborations with regional and subregional

[7] The submitted inputs are contained in the note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 (E/CN.18/2018/2).

[8] The African Union Commission, the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation, the Commission for the Forests of Central Africa, the secretariat of the East African Community, FAO, Forest Europe, the International Model Forest Network, the Tehran Process Secretariat for Low Forest Cover Countries and the Economic Commission for Europe.

organizations and processes, including the recent invitation from the FAO Committee on Forestry.[9]

45. The experts expressed the view that regional and subregional organizations should assist countries in fulfilling their responsibilities regarding the implementation of sustainable forest management. With regard to reporting, voluntary written input to the Forum from national entities and from regional and subregional entities should be guided by the same principles. However, noting that there was a difference in perspective between national entities and regional and subregional entities, the experts concurred on the need to provide regional and subregional entities with a template that would reflect their specific programmes of work, so as to avoid duplication.

46. With regard to the reporting cycle, representatives of regional and subregional organizations and processes stressed the importance of aligning the cycle for regional and subregional contributions with the cycle for voluntary national reporting by members of the Forum, which is to be considered by the Forum at its thirteenth session.

47. The experts emphasized that the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development would provide an excellent opportunity to raise awareness about sustainable forest management and its contribution to the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals and the promotion of sustainable development in general. They stressed that a clear communication strategy was needed in order to convey that message. They also noted that the deliberations of the Forum at its thirteenth session on the communication strategy and those on the Forum's input to the 2018 high-level political forum would be mutually beneficial.

48. Regarding the promotion of collaboration with regional and subregional organizations and processes, the experts highlighted the importance of bringing a universal perspective to regional and subregional discussions and, conversely, of bringing a regional and subregional perspective to discussions on issues of a universal nature. Moreover, the current lack of a formal regional and subregional structure within the Forum was noted. Regarding the invitation from the FAO Committee on Forestry to the Forum, the experts noted that the decision would be for members to make.

C. Major groups and other relevant stakeholders

49. At its twelfth session, the Forum encouraged major groups and other relevant stakeholders to continue their involvement in the work of the Forum, including by elaborating proposals or workplans on how they can contribute to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and the Forum's quadrennial programme of work, and to present such proposals or plans to the Forum at its thirteenth session. In addition, the Forum invited major groups and other relevant stakeholders to provide inputs to the Forum secretariat on the contribution of forests to the issues under consideration by the high-level political forum in 2018.

[9] At its twenty-third session, held in 2016, the Committee invited the Forum to consider the potential offered by the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions for enhancing regional and subregional involvement, including through using the Commissions for regional dialogues related to the Forum, noting that the respective roles and responsibilities should be clearly defined in collaboration with other relevant regional forest-related bodies and processes (report on the twenty-third session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO/2016/REP), para. 53 (b)).

50. Participants in the expert meeting held at the United Nations Office at Nairobi on 20 and 21 November 2017 discussed those issues. A total of 30 representatives of major groups participated in the meeting.

Proposals on the workplans

51. In discussing the key elements for the workplans, the experts focused on prioritizing contributions to the attainment of the six global forest goals and the associated targets set out in the strategic plan. They also discussed priorities for intervention by the major groups and other stakeholders; a description of actions that would be required at various levels of implementation (local, community, regional or global); and potential key partners for collaboration.

52. Other issues raised during the meeting included the importance of supporting sustainable forest management activities and the need for financing networks and capacity-building to enable both Governments and NGOs to access financing for sustainable forest management.

53. The experts identified a set of four core principles that underpinned all priorities, projects and actions to be taken, which should be outlined in the workplans of major groups and other relevant stakeholders. The core principles included: reducing and halting forest degradation; reforestation, afforestation and restoration; gender equality in the forest sector; and stakeholder engagement at all levels. The experts further identified seven priority areas for major groups, including: (a) the role of women and girls in sustainable forest management; (b) the contribution of forests to poverty eradication and environmentally sound livelihoods and improvements in efficiency using innovative forest-based technology; (c) capacity-building to mobilize and access funds; (d) coordination and partnerships for equity and stakeholder engagement; (e) indigenous peoples, farmers, community forest management and value-added forest production and processing; (f) land tenure and ownership and civil society involvement in decision-making with regard to forests; and (g) research and forest-related education, training and knowledge-sharing.

54. On the basis of the four core principles and seven priority areas, major groups and other stakeholders aimed to develop draft workplans that covered their contributions to the implementation of the strategic plan. For each of the priority areas, the workplans were expected to contain a description of the action to be taken, specifying at what level — global, regional, national or local — the actions should be taken. The workplans would also contain a list of the lead major groups and potential key partners for each priority area.

55. The discussions relating to the seven priority areas showed clearly that major groups wished to focus on facilitating engagement by marginalized groups in the implementation of the strategic plan and the Forum's quadrennial programme of work. They intended to achieve this partly through advocacy, by helping to mobilize funds to develop the capacity of such groups for engagement, and partly by making information and knowledge available and accessible to those who needed it. Representatives of major groups and other stakeholders would report to the Forum at its thirteenth session on their workplans.

Contributions of major groups and other relevant stakeholders to the Forum's input for the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development

56. The experts recognized that forests and trees outside forests played a role in many sectors as well as the forest sector. Forests were vital for the achievement of

the Sustainable Development Goals that would be reviewed at the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development, in that they were vital for protecting water resources (Goal 6); for providing energy, both traditional and modern (Goal 7); and for ensuring an ecologically more acceptable urban environment (Goal 11). At the same time, all provisions relating to responsible consumption and production patterns (Goal 12) and partnerships, whether in terms of financial or human and scientific capacities or best practices (Goal 17) applied to forests as much as to other resources and sectors.

57. The experts stressed that the six global forest goals set out in the strategic plan were key guides to how forests and trees outside forests could play a role in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Effective action to achieve the global forest goals automatically facilitated the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With regard to the specific Goals that would be reviewed at the 2018 high-level political forum, the experts noted that, with regard to water (Goal 6), the protective function of forests and trees in watersheds was often taken for granted, and poor communities that made sacrifices to conserve protective forests often received no compensation for their social contributions to the wealthier cities and industries that used the water. With regard to alternative and clean energy (Goal 7), the protection of water sources for hydropower generation was often not mentioned, and fuelwood and charcoal were often treated as backward, even though, with support, they could continue to be a positive energy source for many people, as evidenced by their increasing use as industrial biomass for renewable energy in developed countries. With regard to sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11), forests and trees not only beautified neighbourhoods, they also improved health and, in poorer settlements, continued to contribute to food and energy supplies. Regarding consumption and production patterns (Goal 12), proposals to substitute forest materials increasingly for construction materials that were more energy- and pollution-intensive needed to be taken seriously, as such efforts to change tastes could help to change the consumption and production patterns that affected all economies and the human environment.

58. With regard to Goal 15, the experts, in their key policy recommendations, requested members of the Forum to develop cross-sectoral national action plans and reviews and referred to the need to update and align national forest policy documents with Goal 15 and the global forest goals and to establish cross-sectoral partnerships and alliances with major groups for action on the ground.

IV. Conclusions

59. The present note serves to reaffirm that the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations, regional and subregional organizations and processes, major groups and other stakeholders have an important role to play in supporting the Forum and advancing the implementation of the strategic plan through cooperation, collaboration and partnerships.

60. The wide-ranging scope and outcome of the intersessional activities undertaken by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations, regional and subregional organizations and processes, major groups and other stakeholders illustrate how the strategic plan could be translated into collective action by a wide spectrum of partners and stakeholders, thereby contributing to the achievement of the global forest goals and targets, as well as the forest-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

61. It is imperative for partners and stakeholders to build on the momentum generated by their pioneering activities to further integrate the relevant global forest goals and targets into their policies and programmes to ensure complementarities, synergies and coherence among them.

62. Recommendations and key action points on some of these issues are contained in the note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 (E/CN.18/2018/2).